

by depriving ourselves of any political advantage in the matter. We were unable even with this concession to secure the support of any opponent of the government in the senate. We knew that party feeling was there very intense. We knew that the Senate proclaimed themselves a non-partisan body. They may have persuaded themselves, that, as there was a redistribution of seats only once in ten years, there could only once in ten years be a readjustment of the boundaries of constituencies; and so if parliament had used its authority, and committed an injustice, no matter how great, it must continue until another census was taken and another readjustment was called for under the express provisions of our constitution. I need not say to you that this view was preposterous, and was without the shadow of authority to support it. By the census we ascertain the number of representatives to which each province, for the succeeding ten years, is entitled; but this does not prevent parliament, if it were so inclined, from readjusting the boundaries of the constituencies whenever it may think the public interest calls for any amendment in the representation. The census enables us to fix the number of representatives to which each province is entitled in the House of Commons; it does nothing more. Our census will soon be completed. The population of each province will, I trust, be accurately shown. Our representation in accordance with the law and the facts will be readjusted. I confidently hope that the measure of redistribution will be a

#### PERFECTLY FAIR MEASURE,

based upon the inviolability of county boundaries, and subject to this, upon the principle of representation by population. I trust there will be no compromises with these accepted principles in the interest of some supposed strong candidate. The Reform party are strong so long as they stand up for what is just and proper, but if there is to be a departure from accepted doctrines, it had better be left to our political opponents who did the wrong before. There may be some who think it wise to imitate them, and to follow their example. I am not of that opinion. There is great strength in standing up for the right. It is an immense source of strength to a public man when the people believe that he is unswervingly devoted to what is fair and just, and when they believe he will not deviate from the course so marked out merely because some candidate on his own side is persuaded himself,